

OPAWA SCHOOL

"Act well your part . . .



therein all the honour lies"

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

1872 — 1972



LABOUR WEEKEND, OCTOBER, 1972

CENTENNIAL CHAIRMAN

R. C. HOLLAND, 1972

The Centenary of the Opawa School is to us an occasion which we will all enjoy celebrating.

The Centennial Committee was elected in March 1970. The Sub Committees have worked very hard giving much of their time to make this gathering of old friends, a most successful reunion, one to enjoy and remember for many years to come.

I deem it an honour and privilege to be Chairman of the Centennial Committee, and personally thank all members of the Committee for the untiring manner in which they have carried out the duties allotted to them.

At this time many of us will be looking back and recalling the happy years spent at the Opawa School, and the friendships that followed.

As the school goes into a new century, I know you will all wish it every success in a future that every day will bring the need for more learning and knowledge.

The next century we hope, will be a peaceful one, let us remember our ex-pupils and school mates who made the supreme sacrifice for this purpose.

To commemorate the Centennial a Plaque is being unveiled on the Assembly Hall. This is the result of many hours of hand work by the Hall Promotion Society, School Committee and a Furnishing Committee plus present day pupils, staff and parents.

On behalf of the Committee, I sincerely trust that you will all enjoy the functions which have been arranged for you.

Roy C. Holland,

Chairman, Centennial Committee 1972.



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr R. Holland
Vice-Chairman: Mr B. Cox
Secretary: Mrs N. Loudon

Asst. Secretary: Mrs T. Lye
Treasurer: Mr D. Richardson

Committee

Messrs W. Hawke
R. Pearce
D. Demurgue
K. Petheram
E. Burt
G. Gunn
M. Watson

Mesdames J. Ward
E. Watson
N. Heward
M. Hawke
R. Clark
J. Hay
R. Robinson
C. Glassey
A. Tointon



OPAWA SCHOOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE 1972

Back Row—Mrs J. Ward, Mr W. Hawke, Mrs N. Heward, Mrs A. Tointon, Mrs M. Hawke, Mr R. Pearce, Mrs J. Robinson.
 Middle Row—Mrs C. Glassey, Mr D. Dumergue, Mrs R. Clark, Mrs J. Hay, Mr K. Petheram, Mrs E. Watson.
 Front Row—Mr D. Burt, Mr M. Watson, Mrs T. Lye, Mr R. Holland (Chairman), Mrs N. Loudon, Mr D. Richardson, Mr G. Gunn.
 Absent—Mr B. Cox.

OPAWA SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr J. A. LEE, Chairman 1972

Mr J. A. Lee (Chairman)

Mr K. D. Gray (Secretary)

Mr W. D. Richardson (Treasurer)

Mrs B. Finch

Mr D. L. Head

Mr W. P. Barker

Mr G. I. Gunn

Mr D. W. Walls

Mr R. Bull

Many hours of thought and hard work have led up to this weekend and without the enthusiasm of all concerned these celebrations would not have been possible. On behalf of the Opawa School Committee it is my pleasure to express to Roy Holland and members of the Centennial Committee thanks and congratulations on the splendid organisation which will make the Opawa School Centennial a great success.

Happy memories of days at Opawa School will no doubt be brought back into the minds of those attending the various functions during the weekend. Friendships will be renewed between old class mates and teachers and I am sure new friendships will be made.

Past pupils and staff members will notice changes when looking over the school and in particular the very fine Assembly Hall the school now has. I am sure that visitors who have not seen this hall before will agree that Opawa is most fortunate to have an amenity such as this. An interesting comparison is the contract price of \$564.00 for Opawa's first school and master's house and the cost of the hall, nearly \$24,000. The committee and school are also very proud of the fine library which has been developed during the past seven years.

I wish to pay a tribute to past school committee members for the solid foundation which has been laid during the first 100 years of the school's life. Their efforts have played no small part in the very high standing the Opawa School now has in the community.

In conclusion I extend my best wishes to all present for a most enjoyable celebration.



OPAWA SCHOOL COMMITTEE 1972

Mrs B. Finch, Mr D. W. Walls, Mr W. P. Barker, Mr D. L. Head, Mr R. W. Bull
Mr G. I. Gunn, Mr K. D. Gray, Mr A. J. Lee (Chairman), Mr W. D. Richardson,
Mr M. G. N. Watson

W. D. HAWKE

Chairman O.S. Committee 1962-1969

The involvement of ordinary men and women from within the community who for the past century have given their energy towards promoting the welfare of children at Opawa School is to be commended.

School committees represent one of the oldest forms of democracy and date back almost to the beginnings of New Zealand as a colony. The Education Act of 1877 gave committees an important part to play in the national system of compulsory education for all children. In those early days the responsibilities of committees were much wider. They were responsible for the provision of accommodation for staff as well as their salary, for providing all teaching aids, for acquiring and maintenance of grounds and answerable for the general management of their school. As the years have passed so have there been changes in school administration with many of the functions previously performed by the local School Committee being taken over by Education Boards. However, the system as in operation today whereby parents still take a prominent part in school administration is something which must be preserved.

Since the 90th Jubilee of the school was celebrated in 1962, a number of additional facilities have been provided through the efforts of parents co-ordinated under the direction of the School Committee. The learners' pool has been extended to 60 feet and a filtration plant and additional dressing shed provided.

The School Library with a memorial section to the late Mrs M. Lockerbie is something of which the school can be justifiably proud with 5,000 books for circulation, and annual grants being made from committee funds for up to date replacements.

The erection of our Assembly Hall which was officially opened in November 1970 at a cost of \$24,000 as a worthy project to mark the Centennial of the Opawa School is no doubt the major effort undertaken for the school in its 100 years of history.

During the past decade at least, many projects have been valuably assisted by provision from the Education Department of a subsidy to boost locally raised funds but departmental policy was changed in April 1972 and subsidies will no longer be available as in the past. Whether this change in policy will remove the incentive for the School Committee (with the help of parents) to meet the challenge for desirable extras not already provided as basic equipment is a matter of conjecture at present.

I am confident that the present Opawa School Committee and those who will give service to the Community through the school in future will act with responsibility as have those who have given faithful service in the past.

OPAWA SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

1872-1972

by the late F. H. DEPHOFF, Chairman School Committee 1936-1945

In keeping with the School Motto "Act Well Your Part, Therein All The Honour Lies" I feel I am honour bound to accede to the request to contribute an article for your Jubilee publication. It has often been said "That nothing ever happens in Opawa" but to have established the first school in Opawa Road and later the present school in Ford Road and to have carried on for 100 years in the cause of primary education is no mean achievement. Early history records that the district was originally named by the Maoris as Opaawaha — the original name of the Heathcote River which flows through the district and is closely linked with the early history of Canterbury, including the arrival of immigrants from the first four ships. Many names of these early settlers are still remembered in the district.

I congratulate the school, its teachers and all pupils who have been taught within its walls and commend to them the school motto.

This article was written by Mr Dephoff prior to his death in June 1972.

CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEE SINCE 1872

Mr F. Pavitt	.....	1872	Mr E. O. Barrett	.....	1930
Mr J. M. Wheeler	.....	1873	Mr W. L. Thomas	.....	1931
Mr C. Jones	.....	1874-1876	Mr C. Hall	.....	1933
Captain J. Row	.....	1877-1879	Mr V. Blakely	.....	1934, 1935
Mr E. J. T. Ford	.....	1880, 1881	Mr F. H. Dephoff	.....	1936-1945
Mr T. Moore	.....	1882-1885	Mr H. G. Stevens	.....	1946, 1947
Mr E. Curry	.....	1886-1893	Mr D. Gunn	.....	1948, 1949
Mr G. Scott	.....	1894 & 1896	Mr F. W. Richardson	.....	1950-1952
Mr G. Mitchell	.....	1895	Mr J. R. Garland	.....	1953, 1954
Mr E. G. Wood	.....	1897-1903	Mr F. Mugford	.....	1955-1957
Rev. P. J. Cocks	.....	1904-1906	Mr T. H. Scott	.....	1958-1960
Mr W. Broadhurst	.....	1907-1912	Mr L. V. Munt	.....	1961, 1962
Mr G. E. Collins	.....	1913	Mr W. D. Hawke	.....	1962-1969
Mr R. H. Turner	.....	1914-1921	Mr J. A. Lee	.....	1970
Mr T. W. West	.....	1922-1929, 1932			

OPAWA — THE NAME

The name Opawa is a corruption of the Maori word Opaawaho, which denoted the outer, or seaward pa, which stood on the left bank of the river, close to the present Opawa railway station. The inhabitants of the pa were contemptuously known among other tribes as a race of swamp dwellers, but the scorn of their fellows was no doubt compensated for by the abundant food supplies in the form of eels and wild duck.—"Press"

SCHOOL HISTORY

OPAWA OR HILLSBOROUGH

Traditionally the district of Opawa was first settled by a group of Maoris forming an "outpost" from the village of Rapaki, situated over the hill in Lyttelton Harbour. This settlement known as Opawaha was situated near the river about where the railway bridge crosses. One pakeha settler, Rev. William Willock who arrived in Canterbury on the "Randolph", called his home, built of clay sods near the hills, "Opawaha Cottage". Another early settler, Mr E. Garland settled further down the river and called his home "Hillborough".

In the "Lyttelton Times" of May 31st, 1872 one of the earliest references to the school is headed "The Hillsborough and Opawa Educational District". One hundred years later the school district still includes these areas, with those of Avoca Valley and Murray Aynsley Hill. Two areas of the former school district—St Martins and Huntsbury Hill now have their own school.

The one roomed school opened on July 22nd, 1872 with about 30 pupils under the sole teacher, Mr William Suter, was called the Hillsborough School, and established on the site now known as "Munro Park" on the corner of Opawa and Garlands Road.

This school grew and by the end of the year the roll was 59. Because of the lack of educational facilities in the district previous to the opening of the school, some pupils were 16 years of age. Can we, in 1972, imagine primary school pupils shaving before going to school?

Mr Suter retired in 1880 and returned to England.

It was in this year that the name was changed to the Opawa School.

The next headmaster, Mr T. Morgan stayed for one year and was followed by Mr T. Ritchie, who stayed till 1893, when he joined the inspectorate of the Canterbury Education Board.

By this time the school had become overcrowded, new rooms were built, and staff members, including Miss Banks who was infant mistress for over 20 years and Mr R. W. Morgan, first assistant master had been appointed.

In 1883 Mr George Petrie was appointed headmaster. He stayed until 1911, and there are those still living who can remember the school in those days, and the fine reputation it had on the scholastic and sports sides of education.

Mr Petrie left the school to go farming in the North Island and was succeeded by Mr W. C. Colee who came in 1911 and stayed till 1922 and who will be remembered by so many past pupils either personally or through the article he wrote in the 90th Reunion Booklet.

At this time the old wooden building of 7 rooms was considered quite inadequate for the 350 pupils on the roll and a determined agitation was set afoot for the erection of a new school. This agitation was successful and the first four rooms of the new building on the new site across the river were opened on February 26th, 1921.

Up to 1927 the school continued to be two separate entities with the Standards 3 - 6 in the new building in Ford Road and the Primers and Standards 1 and 2 in the old building across the river in Opawa Road. In 1927 four "new" classrooms (the eastern wing of the brick block) were built and it was a very happy occasion when all the school was together.

This was a time of rapid growth and subdivision in Opawa. Eight classrooms were too few, and several temporary expedients were employed. In the depression days of the period these measures were accepted. Today, if children were housed in open shelter sheds and converted cloakrooms there would be letters to the papers

and protests of all kinds!! Later a marquee was used, in spite of wind and cold, and a class was housed in the Methodist Church Hall.

Finally the present wooden building was started—two classrooms only at first—which relieved the pressure.

The playground with its trees and asphalt and grass playing area was laid out at this period and the avenue of English trees from the Ford Road gate is a fine memorial to Committee members and staff of the period.

This period—late twenties—was the time when the school dental service was started. Committees had to provide accommodation for the dental nurse. Many past pupils will remember the curtained and later partitioned corner of the upstairs staffroom, which served as the dental clinic for so many years, and where Nurse Bannister carried out her duties under difficult conditions. Dental treatment is now provided in the two chair clinic, which was built in 1950, adjacent to the infant block.

It was during this period 1950 - 51 that the final rooms and office for the infant mistress were built on the eastern end of what is now known as the "infant block".

In 1959 the school had four "pre fab" classrooms and the roll had risen to 757. The opening of St Martins school, and the changing of the district has seen the roll decrease to between 400 and 500, with fifteen classrooms, including two "pre fabs". This year, 1972 the staffing ratio was changed from 1 teacher to 40 pupils to 1 teacher to 35 pupils, so, with a similar roll to that of previous years we use more classrooms.



OPAWA CENTENNIAL HALL

The Opawa School Assembly Hall story began many years ago but always other needs were more pressing.

Finally in 1966, Housie was started in the Staretta Hall by a group of 5 enthusiasts. At first the objective was "school funds". In July 1967 this committee formed the nucleus of an augmented group registered as the "Opawa School Hall Promotion Society" with the objective, a school hall. This was to become the centennial project.

The estimated cost then was \$20,000. The actual cost was nearly \$24,000. The hall was opened on 29th November, 1970 and will officially commemorate the centennial on Saturday, October 21st, 1972.

A hall is not much use without furniture. The P.T.A. was asked to raise funds for this purpose. A very active sub-committee started the "dollar a leg" scheme for hall seating and actively worked for curtaining, and many other needs.

The Hall Promotion Committee was also helped by present pupils who held various functions to assist with the "all out" fund raising programme.

All has been achieved and this booklet can record the thanks of the school to all who worked for this wonderful amenity, and especially those who led the way—The School Committee, the Hall Promotion Society, the P.T.A. Furniture Committee, Pupils and Staff, Parents and Friends who supported their efforts.

HEADMASTERS SINCE 1872

Mr William Souter	.....	1872-1879
Mr T. Morgan	.....	1880
Mr T. Ritchie	.....	1881-1892
Mr G. Petrie	.....	1893-1911
M. W. C. Colee	.....	1912-1919
Mr W. C. Colee	.....	1912-1919
Mr A. J. Wickes	.....	1920-1926
Mr C. W. Allard	.....	1927-1943
Mr G. H. Mitchell (Acting)	.....	1944
Mr R. C. Adlam	.....	1945-1948
Mr A. R. Aitken	.....	1949
Mr W. H. Cartwright	.....	1950
Mr G. W. Cotton	.....	1951-1959
Mr E. F. Davison, B.A.	.....	1960-1968
Mr H. Nicholson (Acting)	.....	1968
Mr M. G. N. Watson, B.A.	.....	1969



MR G. W. COTTON

Headmaster — May 1951-May 1960

When, on my first morning at Opawa School, I returned from an exploratory tour of the buildings to join the staff at morning tea, I was not surprised to find them assembled around a table in the entrance hall inside the main doors, for I had discovered that every nook and corner into which children and teachers could be packed, had been taken over as a classroom. A strong cold southerly with torrential rain had added to the discomfort of those not fortunate enough to be accommodated in one of the proper classrooms, which, on further acquaintance turned out to be pretty comfortable due largely to the efforts of the excellent caretaker, Mr Jim Fenwick.

This was the opening day of the winter term of 1951, so that the weather was only what was more or less to be expected, as indeed were the overcrowded conditions when one realised that the district was undergoing something of a housing boom extending over a wide area between the river and the foot of the hills.

These conditions continued for a period of years during which new classrooms and an office for the Infant Mistress were added to the Infant block, and a number of temporary classrooms were erected in the playground as we reached a peak roll in the later years of the decade.

At that time, many of the amenities which are now considered essential were not provided by the Department, and we were indeed fortunate that successive Committees and Parent-Teacher Associations worked hard to provide such "luxuries" as efficient lighting, radio systems, floor coverings, etc. where they were needed in the new rooms, while improvements outside included new fencing to replace the original, the construction of the learner's pool, and improvements and additions to bicycle stands, demands for which appeared insatiable at times, as numbers in the upper classes increased.

During the years 1950-1960, the staff of the School was very stable, apart from the annual movement of the junior members, and any success that may have been achieved was due largely to this fact and to the efforts of such stalwarts as Mr Loney, first assistant master; Miss Saunders, senior assistant mistress; and Mrs Kirk, who succeeded Miss Willis as Infant mistress in 1953. Many will remember also Messrs O'Connell and Mountford who both spent a long time at the school. There were always plenty of younger but no less conscientious teachers to assist in the coaching of sports teams, preparation of school choirs, etc.

Our contemporaries will remember that Mrs Cotton was always interested in school affairs and attended most of our functions. We both enjoyed our association with Opawa, and with the fine body of people comprising the Committees and Parent-Teacher Associations of the period who worked so hard to improve the conditions under which the children of Opawa were taught.



MR E. F. DAVISON, B.A.

Headmaster — 1960-1967

Prior to my taking up duties at Opawa School in the second term of 1960, I had had the good fortune of meeting all of the last eight of my precessors. They were men highly respected in the teaching profession, and my efforts were directed at trying to maintain the fine standards that they had achieved. Mr Colee, in his retirement from the Normal School, in the middle 1930s devoted many years to the work of the Children's Court. Best known to me were Mr Allard who was headmaster while I was an assistant at a nearby school, and his first assistant Mr Mitchell whom I met often in connection with inter-school sports teams.

Opawa was one of the many schools affected by the post-war school population pressure during the 1950s. This had eased by 1960 and the school comprised seventeen classrooms. By this time St Martins was catering for children up to standard 4 thus drawing some pupils from both Opawa and Beckenham Schools. Two or three years later the Education Board moved the original boundary of the Opawa School district eastwards from Albert Terrace and Wilsons Road to Fifield Terrace, and St. Martins was permitted to accept pupils up to Form II, causing Opawa's roll to stabilise at fourteen classrooms by 1965.

I shall always remember the co-operation and loyalty received from many people — from staff, from Committee members and from the Parent-Teacher Association. Most pupils will now be grateful for the tuition and guidance given them by their various teachers, both certificated teachers and probationary assistants. In later years teachers are pleased to hear from former pupils who should never hesitate to make themselves known whenever or wherever they might meet. While I appreciate the efforts of all teachers who worked with me during my seven years at the school I propose to make special mention mainly of senior assistants. Infant Mistresses were Mrs Kirk and Mrs Morris. Senior Mistresses were Mrs

Moss, Miss Wood (Acting) and Mrs McLachlan. First Assistant Masters were Mr Loney, Mr Hundleby, Mr Feasey and Mr Mayer. Among others were Mr Mountford, Mr Boddington, Mr Lester and Mr Heard, who trained choirs and orchestras, and Mrs Lockerbie who accompanied.

The School was fortunate in having energetic Committeemen under the leadership of Mr Scott, Mr Munt and Mr Hawke. Several thousands of dollars were raised with the active co-operation of the Parent-Teacher Association in school fairs, bottle drives, etc., to provide amenities which were not available directly from Government funds. Among amenities acquired under the subsidy scheme were a film strip projector, a "daylight" screen, a tape recorder, a record player, a new "Eavestaff" piano, number apparatus, folk-dance records, film strips, and library reference books. During the first term of 1967 the former storeroom had been painted, carpeted, and furnished to become the library, and many new reference books were added to those which were brought together from the classrooms where they had previously been housed. All books were then classified under the Dewey-Decimal system by Mrs Rees, the newly appointed teacher-aide, so that the issue of books could be effectively controlled. Pupils were able to use the new library from the beginning of the second term.

Because their work is usually done away from public view, school caretakers could easily be overlooked. Thanks are due to Mr Williams, Mr Cassidy and Mr Paul who were caretakers during my time. Their work, although tedious, was well done, and was not made any easier in the winter, when all furnaces had to be alight very early in the morning so that rooms distant from the boilers could be warm enough for pupils by 9 a.m.

Another person who became indispensable in the smooth running of the School was the clerical assistant—Mrs Tointon. With her long experience under earlier headmasters she was most helpful, and was able to remain cheerful in the face of constant pressure of a variety of jobs and numerous interruptions.

The co-operative attitudes of the pupils, too, were appreciated, particularly those who undertook the responsibilities of the house captains, team captains, milk monitors, and traffic wardens.

Since my retirement in August 1967, Mrs Davison and I have been able to reflect with pleasure on many treasured memories of our association with Opawa School and wish the school and all connected with it every success in the future.

MRS A. A. TOINTON

Clerical Assistant from 1949

It was the winter term of 1949 when I applied to Mr R. Adlam, the then headmaster of Opawa, for the position of clerical assistant, in other words the secretary. He agreed to employ me for a fortnight's trial which has lasted over twenty-three most interesting years.

Having a clerical assistant in the school was very new to the children and one little boy wrote in his story that the headmaster had a "mistress" in his office; another child asked me if I was the headmaster's mother and that was twenty years ago.

Mr Adlam's pride and joy was the brand new Gestetner duplicator which was housed, on a form, in his office and he reluctantly shared the use of it with me. This duplicator is still in use at the school today.

For fifteen years I worked in the headmaster's own office, but in 1964 the Education Board decided to do some alterations which included a new office for me, the secretary.

The staffroom and dental clinic were originally two very small rooms upstairs above the office; however a new dental clinic was built and the two rooms upstairs were then made into a staffroom which was used until 1964 when the present staffroom was redecorated and put into use.

The roll was 400-500 when I started and reached its peak of over 700 in the late 1950s, but since the building of St. Martins' school the roll has decreased and we are back with a roll in the 400s.

I have enjoyed travelling to and from school, which for six years I did on a bicycle. The changing of the seasons always appealed to me as I rode by the river.

Since 1949 there have been five headmasters and four acting headmasters, all very fine men who have added interest and variety to the job.

I made an awful "faux pas" once when I asked the new headmaster whether he was the new caretaker; what he replied does not matter now.

The meeting of new teachers each year and the contact with the children and parents has certainly given me great pleasure.



MR N. O. LONEY

First Assistant 1950-1963

Opawa, one of the older schools of Christchurch appealed to me, not only because of its children, but also for its sense of tradition.

From the moment I saw the motto "Act well your part, therein all the honour lies" inscribed above the main door entrance, and the glass-doored museum cupboards lining the hallway, I was enthralled.

Later in the morning when a faint whistle interrupted the classwork and two girls slipped quietly outside to prepare the morning tea, I liked the attitude of the pupils; and about half-a-dozen boys left unobtrusively to trundle the heavy piano down the concrete corridor to some distant destination, my interest was completely aroused. This was no mean task, for a wooden ramp had to be placed to negotiate the door step and the miniature cattle-stop.

One day in every year most of the Standard 6 pupils set off with lunches to a farm in Avoca Valley where they pick flowers for "Violet Day". Whether this is strictly legal I never troubled to find out, but at least it was good training in citizenship.

The Past-pupils' Association (rather unusual for a primary school) and its annual social for the departing sixth, the farewell evening given by the P.T.A. where the children supplied the entertainment, the election of House Leaders, and last, but not least, the wonderful House Relay at the Athletic Sports with teams of 60-80 runners taking part, all bring back fond memories.

Present School Staff

Mr M. Watson (Headmaster)
 Mr J. Mayer (First Asst. Master)
 Mrs M. McLachlan (Senior Asst. Mistress)
 Miss J. Dawber (Supervisor Junior Classes)
 Mrs F. Rolleston
 Mr W. Barker
 Mr H. Boddington
 Mr W. Ogston
 Mr S. Riordan

Mr J. Thawley
 Miss B. Martin
 Miss F. Simmons
 Mrs H. Lane
 Mrs G. Weston
 Miss M. Stewart
 Mrs E. Perrin
 Miss J. Hodkinson
 Mrs A. Tointon (Clerical Assistant)
 Mrs B. Rees (Teacher Aide)



OPAWA SCHOOL STAFF 1972

Back Row—Nurse Stevens, Mrs G. Weston, Mr W. Ogston, Miss M. Stewart, Miss F Simmons.
 Middle Row—Mr J. Thawley, Mrs E. Perrin, Mr H. Boddington, Miss B. Martin, Mrs H. Lane, Mr W. Barker, Miss J. Hodkinson, Mr S. Riordan.
 Front Row—Mrs B. Rees, Miss J. Dawber, Mr J. Mayer, Mr M. Watson (Headmaster), Mrs M. McLachlan, Mrs F. Rolleston, Mrs A. Tointon.

OPAWA SCHOOL P.T.A.

The P.T.A. was formed on March 27th, 1945, and the first Annual Meeting was held on April 24th, 1945 at the school, and the first Committee was:

Patron — Mrs A. Allard. **President** — Mrs G. Clark. **Vice-Presidents** — Mesdames R. D. Dineen and R. Skipworth. **Secretary-Treasurer** — Mrs A. Williamson. **Committee** — Mesdames E. Gunn, C. Buckley and R. Skipworth, Messrs E. R. Lang, H. G. Stevens and H. G. Jamieson. **Teachers Reps** — Miss D. Willis and Mr Mitchell. **Auditor** — Mr F. Rhodes.

Presidents through the years have been:

1946 — Mr E. Lane; 1947 — Dr Blakelock; 1948 — Mr R. G. Skipworth; 1949-50—Mrs H. Judd; 1951-52 — Mr M. Jones; 1953 — Mr A. H. Speak; 1954-55 — Mrs J. Gunz; 1956-57 — Mrs M. Scott; 1958 — Mr G. Summer; 1959 — Mr K. Gray; 1960-61 — Mr R. Barnes; 1962-63 — Mr W. Hawke; 1964 — Mrs W. McKeegan; 1965 — Mrs Caird; 1966-68 — Mrs L. Lye; 1969 — Mrs J. Densem; 1970 — Mrs V. Good; 1971-72 — Mrs L. Lye.

The aim of the P.T.A. is to foster understanding between school and home, and enable parents and teachers to meet, and also to work as a body for the benefit and progress of the school.

Mr G. W. Cotton introduced the open school evenings to the P.T.A. where parents were able to see each classroom and the work they were doing and these evenings proved very popular with large attendances.

The present committee fully appreciate all that the past committees have done to bring the teacher and parent to a closer understanding and only hope that some of the original members feel the satisfaction that we do over this. Many a happy evening has been spent at P.T.A. meetings and we feel sure that many more are to come.

We wish to congratulate the School on attaining 100 years and also wish them success for the future.

The present Committee are:

Patron — Miss Wenmoth (ex-pupil from 1896). **Headmaster** — Mr M. Watson. **President** — Mrs Mrs L. Lye. **Vice-Presidents** — Mr W. Hawke, Mrs Franklyn. **Secretary** — Mr R. Pearce. **Treasurer** — Mr J. Mayer. **Committee** — Mesdames Ansett, Blay, J. Bakeness, Phillips, Low, R. Bull, F. Bull, N. Gillespie, Morgan, Messrs Hilton, Syme, Sowden, Quinliven. **Teachers Reps** — Miss Martin, Mr Riordan, Mr Thawley.

T. E. Lye,

President 1972.

OLD SCHOLARS

C. E. (Ted) Low, M.A., Ph.D., N.Z. Rhodes Scholar, 1926 gained his degree and doctorate at Magdalen College, Oxford, England. Was a Professor of Languages at King Edward College, Birmingham. Ted Low was an outstanding all round athlete, including Rugby and Swimming.

T. H. Scott, B.E., M.I.E.E., Director of Industrial Development Division, D.S.I.R. Went overseas in 1939 to further his studies, gained his B.E. at Rugby, England, and after 12 years returned to N.Z. He has kept in touch with the School Committee Chairman.

Ivan Mauger, 5 times World Motor Cycle Racing Champion. 2 years Long Track World Champion. 3 years in succession World Speedway Champion. The only man to have accomplished this feat.

Noel Pope, Doctor of Science.

Geoff. Ollivier, Seven times New Zealand Tennis Champion and holder of five New Zealand Provincial Championships.

L. Annand, Swimming.

W. Bensley, Missioner.

R. O. Talbot, New Zealand Representative Cricketer.

C. J. Oliver, New Zealand Double-Blue (Cricket and Football).

Dave Dephoff, First Winner of Decathlon Title, Holder of several N.Z. records.

Louis Keats, N.Z. Wrestling Champion at 15.

J. Condliffe, Professor, was attached to Secretariat, League of Nations, Geneva.

Les Lock, Cyclist. Represented N.Z. Commonwealth Games, Auckland 1951 and also at Vancouver 1955. Gained a Silver Medal. Has won Canterbury and N.Z. Titles.

These are a few of the past pupils who have brought credit to the school. Many others, by their lives, their work, and their place in the world have done likewise.



LIBRARY

Over the years efforts have been made to house books in a central library in the school, and for many years library books have been housed in classrooms. In 1967 efforts were made to reform the central library and the headmaster and committee gave a lead in this direction to establish a very good library with carpeted floor, adjustable shelves and well catalogued books in the temporary room of the 1930 period. The profits from the annual bottle drive have been spent on books which now exceed 5000 in number. To this was added a special selection of books for junior and remedial needs called the Lockerbie Memorial Library.

THE SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL

Prior to the construction of the swimming pool next to the old school in Garlands Road, swimming instruction was given in the river near the Opawa Bridge and many children learned to swim on the home made cork belts provided.

The Opawa Swimming Pool, constructed about 1903 was dug out by pupils and constructed by Mr Blogg, served the school and the district for many years. The majority of our past pupils will remember walking from the new school back to the "baths" for swimming instruction.

In line with modern educational policy in swimming instruction the committee and parents of Opawa raised the money and provided a learners' pool at the school in 1954.

This was extended and a filtration plant was provided when the large Opawa pool was closed for various reasons, including the opening of the Lido Pool at Waltham Park, which provided swimming facilities for those living in the South East corner of the city.

The school is grateful to the keen swimmers of the district who, over the years have helped the school. One name, that of Annand, will be remembered, and is perpetuated by a challenge cup for swimming.



ARBOR DAY

On a crisp morning in August about 1940, there is much excitement among scholars of Standard 6 at the prospect of a day away from the classroom.

Mr George Mitchell organises his troops with their bikes into a column of twos and they proceed across the eastern suburbs to the open country behind Waimairi Beach.

On route were the continual hazards of being wedged against a parked car as a tram zoomed on to a loop in the line or choking from the exhaust of motor vehicles burning "gas" produced from the burning of coal in an incinerator mounted on the running board.

On arrival at an Education Board Plantation, reserve spades were issued and seedlings were laid out in orderly rows. What promised to be a day of frivolity turns out to be one of drudgery as hundreds of seedlings are heeled in.

However, there are compensations. Lunch is looked forward to and enjoyed among the sandhills, followed by a kick around with a football on the beach before the long ride back to Opawa.

During the thirty or so years since the seedlings were planted, specialised care has been taken with them and now they have reached maturity.

Arbor Day tree planting exercises have been observed over the years at Victoria Park and Waimairi as well as within the school grounds.

Some of the proceeds from the sale of timber milled at Waimairi has been returned to schools (including Opawa) in proportion to the amount of labour given. Your labours were not in vain!

This, our Centennial year, 1972 has been marked by planting "Centennial Row" — 10 flowering trees along the easter boundary of the school playground.

Centennial Thoughts of Maitland Watson, present headmaster

A school reflects the district it serves and I am sure all will agree that the school playground with its expanse of green grass and stately trees reflects the Opawa of 1920 when the school was moved to the present site and the first four rooms of the brick building were built.

This was a suburb of stately homes surrounded by spacious lawns, colourful gardens, and growing trees. One thinks of "Hawford", and "Hillsborough", to mention but two which have gone, and of "The Grange", "Riverlaw", and "Glenmore", "Fifield" and "Risingholme", which remain to remind us of those gracious days. These were the homes of pioneer business and professional men of the future city. Some had purchased their land in England before leaving for the young colony. No doubt they were influenced by the fact that Opawa was on the direct route, via Bridle Path and swamp from Lyttelton to Christchurch.

Although Opawa had its open spaces and church, built in 1865, it was not really a farming community when the small school opened in 1872. The railway and tunnel had been opened and the train had replaced the horse in giving quick direct access to the city and the port. Paddocks gave way to subdivision and smaller homes were built to provide accommodation for the increased population.

The Opawa school has always served a mixed community which has depended on the city, the port, and the local district for its livelihood. Although those well known dairy farms have been replaced by industry, and suburban homes are encroaching on market garden land, we still have a sheep farmer, a wool classer, and market gardeners listed among the many occupations represented by parents of children attending the school. This diversity of interest has given the pupils of Opawa a healthy, virile outlook and made the school an interesting place.

I have had the privilege of teaching two generations of Opawa children and as I meet, and work with, parents of today's children, who were themselves pupils of a generation or so ago, I am aware of the fine contribution the school, composed of teachers, committee members, and parents, working for the children, has made to the district, and how much it means to the former pupils.

Each generation has made its contributions to the school — trees, swimming pool, library, hall, and many other amenities which assist pupils to discover the true values of life which form the basis of citizenship.

What of the future? Another tunnel has crowded buses, cars and lorries onto the road between the city and the port. The bustle of industry is replacing the peace of yesterday. My hope is that our pupils will be well prepared to meet the changes they must face in life so that each may act well his part with honour to himself, his home, his school and his childhood community.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

For many of the years in the century of the school's history a band of voluntary teachers has come each week to help children to understand those great truths of Christianity upon which the human relationships and values in life should be based.

We think with gratitude of Canon Henry Williams of past years, and Mrs Purdue and Mr Stedman of the present team who have given over 20 years to this work, and of many others who by their faithful service to the school have enriched the lives of the pupils.



SCHOOL BANKING

How many can remember the thrift cards with the penny stamps which were bought and stuck on? This was the beginning of the school banking system which later was handled by teachers in the classroom. What a trial each week to get the banking to balance! Now books and money are collected weekly in a locked bag and all book work is done by the Post Office. It is quite surprising what substantial amounts are saved by those who use this service while at primary school.



DECADE RIBBONS

1872-1881 White	1922-1931 Red
1882-1891 Pink	1932-1941 Dark Blue
1892-1901 Lemon	1942-1951 Mauve
1902-1911 Light Blue	1952-1961 Gold
1912-1921 Light Green	1962-1972 Dark Green

Ex-Teachers and Ex-Committee — School Colours

Committee — Black and White

Programme

SPORTS DAY AT THE SCHOOL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th

Morning—Tabloid Sports

Afternoon—Athletic Sports

Past Pupils' Race Secondary Pupils

Under 15 Boys - Girls 3.30 p.m.

Open Boys - Girls

CENTENNIAL BALL—Winter Gardens—8.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st

2 p.m. Period costume Parade from old school site arrives at school grounds.

Handing over of school grounds for celebrations by School Committee Chairman, Mr J. A. Lee.

Ringling of bell by oldest male past pupil.

Hoisting of flag.

N.Z. National Anthem.

Chairman's Welcome—Mr R. C. Holland, J.P.

Presentation of Sprays and Buttonhole.

His Worship the Mayor—Mr N. Pickering.

Minister of Education.

Canterbury Education Board Representative.

Cutting of Cake by oldest lady pupil.

Calling of Roll—Mr E. F. Davison, Ex Headmaster

Mr W. D. Hawke, Ex Committee Chairman

Unveiling of plaque on Assembly Hall—Mr T. McGuigan, M.P.

Photographs—Afternoon tea.

Please assist officials by answering call for decade photographs promptly.

Admittance for afternoon tea by badge or issued card only.

BANQUET—CANTERBURY COURT, ADDINGTON

7 - 8 p.m. Social hour with refreshments.

8 p.m. Banquet.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

2 p.m. Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service in school grounds.

Afternoon Tea served by P.T.A.

Autographs



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